

# Aylburton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 27th November 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Hall.

## **Present**

Maurice Bloomfield (M.B.) (Chair), Colin Newman (C.N.), Jane O'Donnell (J.O'D.), Andy Jones (A.J.), Frankie Evans (F.E.), Simon Newman (S.N), (Councillors); Karen Blackwell (K.B.), clerk. Marion Winship (M.W.), Terry Glastonbury (T.G.), District.  
Also present: Simon Cullen, Strategy Engagement Officer, Environment Agency.

No apologies had been received.

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012**

Agreed and signed as a true record.

## **Presentation by Simon Cullen**

Mr Cullen started by announcing that the flood risk strategy should be available for public consultation early 2013. As the strategy currently stands it takes no account of the possibility of the placing of a Severn barrage & that if this does occur the strategy will need to be re-done.

F.E. raised the issue of the apparent lack of interest in this subject as shown by Lydney Town Council.

M.W. asked if the strategy will help with the problems caused by standing water on flat areas & was told that as these stem from ordinary water courses this will be a matter for the County Council (as the local flood authority). Equally problems caused by drainage systems are the responsibility of Highways. There are many agencies involved & it can be difficult to ascertain who should do what!

M.W. pointed out that County will say that this is a community problem, thereby effectively yet again passing the buck. Mr Cullen agreed to send the clerk a definitive list regarding these responsibilities.

## **District councillor reports:**

M.W raised the issue of speeding vehicles in flooded areas creating bow waves which are breaching sand-bags & entering properties & gardens. She asked that all residents be made aware of this & suggested that some patrol the affected areas, wearing Hi-vis clothing, in an attempt to slow traffic, as well as placing advisory signs. It is also vitally important to keep an eye on the drains & to report any problems immediately. She went on to say that Housing Association tenants may be eligible for reduced-cost home insurance through a local scheme.

Martin Surl has been elected Police Commissioner & M.W. will provide a list of his stated aims & policies for the Parish Council to peruse. He is apparently determined to keep a police "hub" in the Forest, although also needs to make a 20% reduction in spending so we shall see. M.W. asked also that it be pointed out that new police panel members do not receive any payment.

M.W. has been badgering the Planning department at FoDDC to formulate a policy regarding the siting of wind turbines & has queried the Environmental Impact Survey, or lack thereof, used by the developers of the proposed Alvington site.

A further issue raised was that of an Emergency or Resilience team which would act should such an occurrence affect the village. M.W. offered to send a copy of Alvington's plan & the Parish Council will adapt it as necessary. Furthermore the P/C must locate storage for salt / grit & sandbags & will approach local businesses to request their help, with the possibility of renting space or a container being discussed.

## **Matters arising from the minutes:**

### **Church yard shed removal**

M.B. is still awaiting a response from John Court & the Parochial Church Council regarding this issue (Please also see above).

### **Two Rivers garages proposals**

Two Rivers has decided not to pursue this at the current time. A.J. has taken photos of the whole site flooding during the recent heavy rains should the Housing Association be tempted to try again in the future...

### **Millennium Wood**

Following advice from a local solicitor it has been decided to rethink the matter of obtaining the leasehold on this land. Many possible future problems have been identified, but the P/C is very aware of the need to maintain good relations with LPE so must proceed with caution! M.B. & K.B. will attempt to resolve this issue, taking further legal advice if necessary.

### **General roads / pavements issues**

M.B. had met with Brian Watkins (of Glos. Highways) to ensure that he is fully aware of ALL outstanding & unsatisfactory issues. B.W. assured the Chairman that he has "taken note" of all that needs doing & will check where responsibility for the old Lambeth Walk / Sandford Road banks lies. The clerk will continue to pester Highways for a resolution.

A.J. stated that 1 of the principal reasons identified as causing flooding in the village is the large number of leaves getting caught in the drains. He also stated that he is keeping the brook grid clear. It is vital that both of these are kept as clear as possible. M.W. reported that

Gloucestershire Highways has currently stopped all other work in order to concentrate on drain-clearing in an attempt to improve conditions.

Furthermore A.J. has cut the offending willow tree which overhangs the brook as well as the banks of the brook. M.B. would like A.J. to receive payment for this work.

The clerk was asked to contact Highways with reference to the ivy plants which are growing out from the Kears Moor site & covering the adjoining pavement.

F.E. asked if it was possible to get the High Street bins cleaned, particularly the one by the Cross public house. There is some confusion as to who should perform this task as well as the emptying of the bins, which the clerk will attempt to discover by asking Richard Aston at FoDDC.

#### **Allotment agreements / letters**

Following the distribution of the draft agreements & letter it was obvious that most tenants are in favour of the proposals but equally there are still some aspects which need to be addressed. M.B. will attempt to contact those concerned in order to clarify matters, particularly for those people who have had the plots for many years.

It was agreed that the P/C needs to perform regular maintenance on both allotment sites & A.J. was asked to quote for this work.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Budget / Precept request**

K.B. had prepared a budget detailing likely expenditure for the forthcoming financial year. On this basis it was agreed to request a precept of £7500. F.E. asked if the P/C was aware of a legal requirement to hold a "contingency" fund to be used for unexpected events or in the event of an election, the cost of which can be high. K.B. will research this. F.E. also asked if the P/C is likely to devise a Neighbourhood Plan as this would also need to be budgeted for. It was explained that following consultation with Kate Baugh last January such a plan would be unnecessary at this time.

The clerk will look into the possibility of donating funds once again to the provision of the Street Wardens. F.E. would like to know how they are funded & what services they provide. It was agreed that they may be able to perform some useful functions within the village in terms of parking / dog waste problems.

##### **Flower show committee**

It was agreed to approach Ray Woodward & ask if the committee would be amenable to placing some flower tubs along stretches of the Upper common which are currently bare.

##### **Parking issue, Church Road**

A.J. informed the meeting that a local resident has been causing some concern by parking a large works van very near to the junction of Church road, thus obscuring visibility on an already tricky turn. This may be a matter for the Street Wardens to assist with.

##### **Portfolio reports:**

Nothing to add further to general reports as above.

##### **Correspondence:**

Items from #8640 to #8651 were reviewed & dealt with as appropriate.

##### **Planning**

John Ridley. Tree maintenance. No comments.

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**Finances:**          Current account    **£1,976.10**                          Deposit account    **£7,482.71**

##### **Payments made:**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Aug / Sept 2012)	£200.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Aug / Sept 2012)	£210.00
Whitehouse Press Ltd	– Inv#029206, Ducktown Echo issue 9	£208.00
R. Morgan	– Inv#017 (School & Church)	£194.00
R. Morgan	– Inv#026 (Memorial garden hedge)	£25.00
M. Bloomfield	– Expenses: Emergency meeting posters	£60.00
Royal British Legion	– Poppy wreaths x 2	£50.00

##### **Authorisations required:**

K. Blackwell	– Salary (Oct / Nov 2012)	£200.00
K. Blackwell	– Expenses, stamps / phone calls	£20.00
A. Jones	– Litter collection (Oct / Nov 2012)	£210.00
Lydney Town Council	– Cemetery upkeep donation	£165.00
Francis Law solicitor	– Re. Millennium Wood lease	£60.00

##### **Payments Received**

None

**Next meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 at 7pm**